



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES  
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM  
THE CAPITOL

September 11, 2014

Secretary Ken Detzner  
Florida Department of State  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Detzner:

Soil and water conservation districts were established in Florida in 1937 pursuant to Chapter 582, Florida Statutes, the provisions of which are administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department). The State of Florida currently has 59 soil and water conservation districts, and with a few exceptions, the various soil and water conservation districts function effectively and serve an important role in furthering the conservation goals of our state. Since the creation of the districts however, agriculture in some areas where they reside has greatly declined, and as such, those districts no longer serve the purpose for which they were originally intended.

On April 25, 2014, the department received a letter from Jesse Panuccio, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity declaring the Flagler Soil and Water Conservation District inactive. Mr. Panuccio requested that the department exercise its authority pursuant to Section 582.30(3)(b), Florida Statutes, to dissolve the inactive district. The statutory requirements for dissolution of a soil and water conservation district, which include the review and confirmation in writing by the department's inspector general that the district has failed to comply with financial reporting requirements, as well as publication of notice, have been satisfied. Accordingly, enclosed herein is the department's Certificate of Dissolution finding that the Flagler Soil and Water Conservation District's continued operation is not administratively practicable and feasible under the provisions of Chapter 582, Florida Statutes.

I support the overall purpose of soil and water conservation districts and put great value in their partnerships with the department. We will continue to work with other soil and conservation districts in this state to strengthen existing partnerships and to improve the quality of service provided to the communities they serve.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Please contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Adam H. Putnam  
Commissioner of Agriculture





# CERTIFICATE OF DISSOLUTION

EST. 1868

WHEREAS, the Flagler Soil and Water Conservation District was created in 1952; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2014, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity requested that the Commissioner of Agriculture exercise the authority granted in Section 582.30(3)(b), Florida Statutes to dissolve the Flagler Soil and Water Conservation District for failure to repeatedly comply with Chapter 189, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Agriculture requested the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of Agricultural Water Policy and Office of Inspector General to investigate the viability of the Flagler Soil and Water Conservation District and to determine if its continued operation is administratively practicable and feasible under the provisions of Chapter 582, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of Inspector General, pursuant to Section 582.30(3)(b), Florida Statutes, reviewed the Flagler Soil and Water Conservation District's compliance with Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, and confirmed in writing that the district has repeatedly failed to comply with the annual audit or financial reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Agricultural Water Policy, pursuant to Section 582.30(4), Florida Statutes, caused notice to be published once a week for 2 weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within Flagler County, stating the name of the district and a general description of the territory included in the district, and requiring that any comments or objections to the proposed action must be filed with the department clerk no later than 60 days after the date of last publication, which was August 3, 2014; and

WHEREAS, upon conclusion of the 60-day comment period, the Office of Agricultural Water reviewed its information, the Department of Economic Opportunity's written request, comments received, the Office of Inspector General's written confirmation that the district has failed to comply with audit and financial reporting requirements, and the district's past activity; and

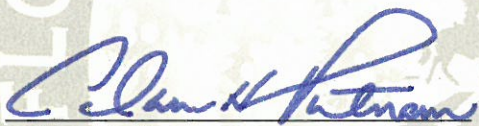


WHEREAS, based on all available information, the Office of Agricultural Water Policy has confirmed to the Commissioner of Agriculture that the Flagler Soil and Water Conservation District has met the requirements for dissolution pursuant to Section 582.30, Florida Statutes, and therefore recommends that the Commissioner issue a certificate determining that the continued operation of the district is not administratively practicable and feasible under the provisions of Chapter 582, Florida Statutes.

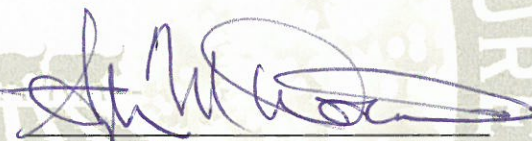
NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 582.30, Florida Statutes, having received a request from the Department of Economic Opportunity requesting that the Flagler Soil and Water Conservation District be dissolved for failing to meet its reporting requirements under Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, and having received written confirmation of such from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Inspector General, and after consideration of the foregoing,

I, Adam H. Putnam, as Commissioner of Agriculture, find that the Flagler Soil and Water Conservation District's continued operation is not administratively practicable and feasible under the provisions of Chapter 582, Florida Statutes, and is hereby DISSOLVED.

Done on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014.



Adam H. Putnam  
Commissioner of Agriculture



Stephen M. Donelan, Agency Clerk